



October 28, 2003

District Election Officer Named

The Office of the United States Attorney announced today that Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey has been appointed to serve as the Rhode Island Federal District Election Officer for the November 4 elections in Rhode Island.

The appointment is made in accordance with the Department of Justice Voting Access and Integrity Initiative established by Attorney General John Ashcroft in October 2002. The goals of the initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination and to prosecute federal offenses as they occur. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day.

Forms of election abuse covered by federal law include voter bribery, voter intimidation, and ballot forgery. It is also a federal offense to seek out elderly, socially disadvantaged, or illiterate persons for the purpose of subjugating their electoral will.

Working in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Assistant U.S. Attorney Leavey will supervise the investigation and prosecution of any federal election fraud matters that arise. Allegations of election fraud may be reported to the U.S. Attorney's Office at 401-528-5477, the FBI at 401-272-8310, or to the Rhode Island State Police at 401-441-1000.